



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 17, 2008

H.R. 5235

Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission Act

As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on September 11, 2008

H.R. 5235 would establish a two commissions, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Commemoration Commission and the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission. The first commission—consisting of 22 members—would encourage, plan, develop, coordinate, and execute programs, observances, grants, and activities commemorating the historic events that preceded and are associated with the War of 1812. The second commission—consisting of 11 members—would plan, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of former President Ronald Reagan on February 6, 2011.

Both commissions would annually report to the Congress on their activities and terminate after submitting their final report. Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. In addition, the commissions could hire staff and use personnel from federal agencies. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$500,000 annually over the 2009-2015 period for the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Commemoration Commission and a total of \$1 million over the 2009-2011 period for the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that the commissions would spend \$3.5 million over the 2009-2013 period (\$2.5 million for the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Commemoration Commission and \$1 million for the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission). Because H.R. 5235 would authorize the commissions to accept and use gifts, enacting the legislation could have a negligible impact on revenues (from donations) and associated direct spending.

H.R. 5235 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. Any participation by state or local governments in the programs or activities of the commissions would be voluntary.

CBO has previously prepared cost estimates for bills authorizing each of these commissions. On July 21, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 5235, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on July 16, 2008. On July 26, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 1389, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on July 19, 2007. On May 22, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1079, the Star-Spangled Banner and War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Act, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 2007. The cost estimates for all of these bills reflect differences in the number of commissions created and their authorization levels.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.